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SOVIET SPECIALISTS AID AN-SHAN STEEL DEVELOPMENT;
 NORTHEAST INDUSTRY AND MINING EXCEED GOALS

WARN AGAINST EQUIPMENT NEGLECT -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 4 Mar 50

Shen-yang -- Russian specialists were distributed among the various plants of the An-shan Iron and Steel Company in the autumn of 1949. Their first concern was the heating equipment which had been neglected by the cadre to the detriment of the machinery. The Russians told officers of the company of unfortunate experiences during the early days of Soviet reconstruction, in which neglect of heating equipment led to freezing of power plants and gas works, halting operations in dependent industrial units. The Russians aided in drawing up a plan to protect equipment from the cold.

The specialists noted many other such "minor details." For example, seeing that there were idle workers, the Russians immediately suggested to the company's officers that the workers be suitably organized for carrying out their work. An inspection of the plant and equipment also revealed numerous minor defects which required attention.

Matters of greater importance have also engaged the attention of the specialists, as can be seen by the following examples:

Originally, plans called for repairs on one of the cupola furnaces to be completed by August 1950, but when the specialists arrived in September 1949 they suggested to the company and the Northeast Ministry of Industry that work be speeded and estimated that the job could be completed in 1949. Engineers doubted that it was possible to lay bricks at that time because of the intense cold, but confidence was fostered by stories of repairs made in Siberia at temperatures 30 degrees below zero. A "repair committee" was formed through the cooperative efforts of the government, labor union, CCP detachment, youth corps, and other groups. With the specialists present to solve engineering problems, the repairs were completed with 5 days still left in 1949.

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In addition, by adjusting the temperatures used in one of the No 2 coke furnaces, the Soviet specialists were able to reduce the time required for the distillation process by 28 percent. The Russians received the plaudits of the workers at a meeting called to confer bonuses for new records set at the plant.

The Russians have interested themselves in every aspect of the company's operation including the workers' welfare, and a great bond of friendship has developed between the Chinese workers and their "big brothers," whom they seek whenever they encounter difficulties.

Included among the plants of the company are a rolling mill, which also contains furnaces for producing copper ingots; the machinery repair plant, which is a unit under the chemical engineering section; the pattern-making plant; and the iron products plant.

The 1950 production goal for the An-shan Iron and Steel Company has been set at 620 percent of the 1949 goal. Workers feel that with the experience and help gained from the Russian specialists, even this quota may be exceeded by 5 percent.

NORTHEAST 1949 PRODUCTION SHOWS STEADY RISE -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 6 Mar 50

Shen-yang, 23 February -- The various industrial plants and mines under the direction of the Ministry of Industry of the Northeast People's government exceeded their goals for 1949 by an average of more than 1.2 percent.

Data of the Ministry show that during 1949 there was a steady monthly rise in production. The value of production during the latter half of the year was double that for the first half and the December production value was 3.4 times that of January.

At present, 85 percent of the industries and mines have resumed production under the auspices of the Ministry, and individual productivity among the workers is rising.

CHINA SEEKS SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN RUBBER -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 3 Mar 50

Hong Kong -- According to a dispatch to the Ta Kung Pao of Hong Kong from Ch'ung-ch'ing, dated 21 February, considerable success is being realized in growing rubber trees imported from India in the neighborhood of Ch'ung-ch'ing. About 450 trees are growing in the area between Mao-erh-shih (Ueda 7193, 574, 7954) and Hsiang-kuo-ssu (7801, 1639, 2415), and a larger number in the neighborhood of Nan-wen-ch'uan (1010, 6412, 6063). Another 100 are scattered about in various gardens.

Monthly tests of the latex milk from these trees made by scientists of the Ch'ung-ch'ing Industrial Experiment Station indicate that there is no difference between its components and that of trees growing in India except for a slightly higher pitch content.

Prior to the Japanese war some plantings were made in Hai-nan which will eventually be developed by the authorities.

If these various projects can be expanded, China may look forward to a day of self-sufficiency in raw materials for her growing rubber industry.

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NORTH CHINA FUR CORPORATION REPORTS ACTIVITIES -- Hua-ch'iao Jih-pao, 4 Mar 50

T'ien-ching -- Since its establishment, the North China Hides and Furs Corporation has been active in purchasing skins and furnishing them to private merchants for export. From September 1949 to January 1950, it sold a total of 515,00 kidskins, 37,000 lambskins and 20,000 muskrat skins, alleviating to a great extent difficulties merchants have encountered in purchasing furs. Previously losses to merchants had been high, because often, after receiving an order from abroad, there were not enough furs on the market or delivery could not be made on time. Now, however, verification abroad can be made after contacting the corporation.

The primary objective of the corporation is to secure foreign exchange for reconstruction purposes. The corporation buys hides and furs through local cooperatives, thus eliminating the middleman, at prices based on those in foreign markets. These are resold to merchants at a reasonable profit. An attempt is made to regard the interests of both rural suppliers and export merchants. Most of the furs exported go to the US.

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